

REMARKS

Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1 - 12, 15, 18, and 21 - 23 have been cancelled from the application. Claims 13, 14, and 16 - 20 remain in the application.

In the Office Action, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Also, in the Office Action, claims 1- 6, 8, 9, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,838,234 to Peterson. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 7, 12 - 16, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,838,234 to Peterson. Furthermore, in the Office Action, claim 17 is indicated as allowable if properly rewritten.

With respect to the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, Applicant notes that claim 17 has now been amended to provide an antecedent basis for the limitation "said sleeve portion" in line 3. Therefore, it is submitted that the rejection has now been overcome.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1- 6, 8, 9, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,838,234 to Peterson and claims 7, 12 - 16, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,838,234 to Peterson, it is submitted that these rejections are now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1 - 12, 15, 18, and 21 - 23 and the amendment of claims 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19 such that all claims now ultimately depend from claim 17 as currently amended.

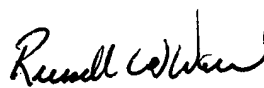
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 13, 14, and 16 - 20 is respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Russell W. Warnock

Name of Attorney Signing

Respectfully Submitted



Russell W. Warnock

Registration No. 32,860

April 26, 2006

BSH Home Appliances Corp.
100 Bosch Blvd
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-672-7927
Fax: 714-845-2807
russ.warnock@bshg.com